

SPOTLIGHT COUPLE # 10

Rey & Marlene Osma
ME Class #9

Hello readers! Public leaders are elected this month of November. With that, we are honored to feature the President of the KFI Ministry, Sis Marlene and Brod Rey (Jun to many) of Bloomfield, NJ. The KFI - ME community is so inspired by their passion and commitment to the mission of KFI. Here's what they have to share...

Rate your love story from a scale of 1-10 and why in a few words.

Reynaldo

We rate our love story as #8.

Our love story is evolving every day. Being so, it is not boring. I evaluate Marlene's words and deeds. There is always something in her that interests me.

Marlene

We rate our love story as #8.

Our love story is God's story. We live our earthly life in God's mercy and grace.

Did the MEW retreat impact your relationship?

Reynaldo

Definitely! We attended the ME weekend# 9 in November 1999 in Avalon, NJ and it has greatly impacted our relationship. Since that first ME Weekend, we have continually spent our weekends in the many tasks of the KFI - ME Ministry.

Marlene

Our involvement in the KFI- ME Ministry is a gift from God. We are totally dedicated to the ministry where we serve others by sharing our time, talent, and treasure. We have been involved in the ministry for 21 years and counting. By being involved in the many ways of evangelization we have received abundant blessings. Good things happen when, as a couple, we praise God's goodness.

What is your favorite thing to do together?

Reynaldo

When our children successively left our home to be independent, we found ourselves going through the "empty nest syndrome". Suddenly, we have no children at home who need our care. We realized it is now time to be focused on each other. Our regular daily activities are the favorite things we do together. If we are not at work (we have a few more years to retirement), we pray as a couple, we prepare, reflect, and discuss the Scripture

readings assigned to us in our Neocatechumenal Way group, wherein we host Friday prayer meetings via Zoom. We attend Sunday Mass and religious retreats, facilitate spiritual growth seminars, take cruises, join pilgrimages conducted by a priest, watch love story movies, and if we have opportunity, we turn on the karaoke and sing with *gusto* together.

Marlene

I've always prayed for that period when we can devote ourselves to the undertaking of getting closer to heaven.

Currently, we are members of the 1st community of the Neocatechumenal Way, The Way, in short, at St. Valentine Church in Bloomfield, NJ. The Way, is an itinerary of Christian formation within the Catholic Church. Together, our week is spent in preparing for Eucharistic celebration with our Neocatechumenate community. These celebrations are presided by a Neocatechumenal Way Catholic priest. These comprise our whole week's activities on top of attending virtual meetings of the various KFI ministries. We both attend the scheduled monthly retreats (convivence) and the yearly retreats attended by all the Neocatechumate communities of the Catholic churches in the tri state area. God provides the TIME so we can manage them all.

Beaches or mountains? Why?

Reynaldo

I choose mountains. I am a nature lover. I get the chance to reminisce those childhood memories in Albay, Philippines. I grew up with 10 siblings. I carry those precious memorable years to my marriage. That is who I am. Physically, Marlene cannot do the strenuous hiking and walking. What I do is share with her the bold encounters I had during my younger years. She is so engaged when I narrate to her my youthful adventures.

Marlene

I am for beaches. When our children were young, we took them to the beach. I stayed behind and sat on the portable beach chairs as I watched them from afar. Reynaldo (Jun) taught them how to swim, make sandcastles, and collect shells. It was one of those exciting family times.

What is the craziest thing on your bucket list?

Reynaldo

Zip lining with Marlene! It is crazy and so it will not happen.

Marlene

Trip to the outer space from the BLUE ORIGIN. That would be an experience unimaginable beyond words to describe. To view God's creation from that point will be an amazing gift of a lifetime.

What have you prayed hard for?

Reynaldo

God said go and multiply. That is what Marlene and I did. We elevated our hearts' desire for a child. And He gave us three!. We are now grandparents of two energetic boys. We pray for the total wellbeing of our children, children in-law and grandchildren: spiritually, mentally and physically. We implore that they be productive citizens and be a light to others. As a family, we share the one true Catholic faith.

Marlene

In unison with Reynaldo, we pray without ceasing that in this secular world our millennial children will continue to trust God; that in all their achievements whether personal, family, or professional life, they may know that God is the provider of them all. I also beg that we grow old in good health.

How do you see yourselves in your golden years?

Reynaldo

We hope that God will unite Marlene and me in all our decision-making. We do not aspire to gain material wealth. What we ask for is to continue to be His servants in true humility, perseverance, and with firm conviction. Our supplication is that we attain ETERNAL JOY together.

Marlene

I see ourselves caring for each other. I will provide the strength for Reynaldo to overcome his weaknesses. Likewise, I hope he will be there ready to forgive my many shortcomings and embrace my whole being. May the gift of patience, kindness, acceptance, forgiveness, harmony and LOVE be overflowing in our golden years. We will support each other on the road to sainthood. We will achieve this by working for the greater glory of God. May it be granted to us in accordance with His Holy Will. Amen.



XOXO